



# **Our position on:** Respiratory Products and Global Warming

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### What's the challenge?

Metered Dose Inhalers (MDIs) are one of the main treatments for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). MDIs use a hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) propellant to deliver the medicine from the inhaler to the patient, which is then released into the atmosphere. Whilst HFCs do not deplete the ozone layer, they are greenhouse gases with a relatively high Global Warming Potential (GWP) and can remain in the atmosphere for many years. MDIs account for almost half (45%) of the company's carbon emissions.

GSK is a leader in the treatment of respiratory disease, producing MDIs which use a propellant to deliver the medicine, and Dry Powder Inhalers (DPIs) which are propellant free. GSK's latest generation of inhaler products, that use the Ellipta device, were developed and launched as DPIs and have an acknowledged lower carbon footprint than MDIs.

In September 2021 GSK announced a new initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our rescue metered dose asthma inhalers. This builds on existing low carbon maintenance therapy options.

### GSK's position

- Climate change is one of the world's most pressing issues and is having a fundamental impact on human health. As a healthcare company we recognise we can contribute to tackling both the causes and effects of climate change. We have ambitious targets in place to have net zero impact on climate by 2030.
- GSK is committed to reducing our environmental impact. In 2017, a certified assessment of our respiratory inhaler portfolio by the Carbon Trust showed that the lifecycle carbon footprint of our DPIs is around 24 times lower than a propellant-based inhaler for one month's treatment. By producing propellant free DPIs such as products using the Ellipta device in place of MDIs, GSK avoids approximately 2 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions per year.
- There are situations when an MDI may be the most appropriate inhaler device for the patient. While we support the exemptions for medical applications within some global and national legislation, GSK has initiated an R&D programme to redevelop and redesign its rescue metered dose inhalers, building on its existing GSK low carbon maintenance therapy options.

### Background

- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer entered into force in 1989 to manage the global elimination of chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS). The Kigali amendment, which entered into force in 2019, extends the targets to include HFCs. It seeks to phase down the use of HFCs by 85% by 2047.
- The Kigali Amendment is primarily focused on the largest sources of HFC emissions, widely acknowledged to be air conditioning units and refrigeration units. Recognition of the vital role HFC-driven MDIs can have on patients' lives is reflected in related legislation via exemptions when the gas is used for medical applications.